

Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

1. An image-processing apparatus comprising:
a plurality of function buttons for controlling the operation of the image-processing apparatus;
a lock button for enabling and disabling the plurality of function buttons; and
a display device for displaying the condition of the image-processing apparatus and the plurality of function buttons.

[c2] 2. The image-processing apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a timer for calculating a first time for the image-processing apparatus to disable the plurality of function buttons after the first time, under the condition of the plurality of function buttons being originally enabled.

[c3] 3. The image-processing apparatus of claim 2 wherein the timer further calculates a second time for the image-processing apparatus to enable the plurality of function buttons after the second time, under the condition of the plurality of function buttons being originally disabled.

- [c4] 4. The image-processing apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a password protection device for setting up a password for the lock button to enable and disable the plurality of function buttons, so that the password is required when the lock button enables and disables the plurality of function buttons.
- [c5] 5. The image-processing apparatus of claim 1 wherein the image-processing apparatus is connected to a computer, and the image-processing apparatus can receive and execute commands from the computer.
- [c6] 6. The image-processing apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plurality of function buttons includes a copy button for enabling the image-processing apparatus to copy documents.
- [c7] 7. The image-processing apparatus of claim 6 wherein when the copy button is pressed when the copy button is disabled, the display device displays an unlock message.
- [c8] 8. The image-processing apparatus of claim 1 wherein the display device is a light emitting diode (LED) or a liquid crystal display (LCD).
- [c9] 9. The image-processing apparatus of claim 1 being a multifunction product (MFP).

[c10] 10. The image-processing apparatus of claim 1 being a printer.

[c11] 11. The image-processing apparatus of claim 1 being a scanner.